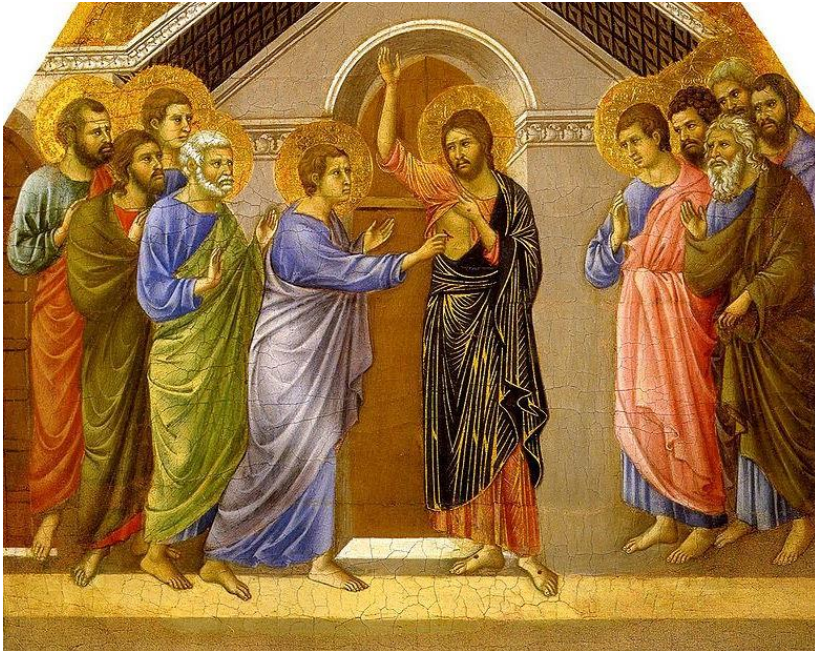




Risen Christ Lutheran Church
Second Sunday of Easter
April 7, 2024 9:30am

**REMEMBER, YOU ARE IN GOD'S SANCTUARY. AS YOU ENTER,
PLEASE SIT QUIETLY, PRAY, AND READ THROUGH YOUR
WORSHIP FOLDER TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP.**



The Maesta Altarpiece ~ The Incredulity of St. Thomas.
Duccio di Buoninsegna circa AD 1308

Risen Christ Lutheran Church
46250 Ann Arbor Road Plymouth, MI 48170
734.453.5252 www.risenchrist.info

ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe: that Christ’s body and blood are truly present for forgiveness and spiritual strength, that God desires our sincere confession, continuous seeking and giving forgiveness and, that being genuine in taking Communion so that we not harm ourselves by taking it in an unworthy manner. If you believe the above, are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the “individual” and “common” cups of wine. (Note: White Non-Alcoholic Wine is in the center of the tray.)

OFFERING – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting www.RisenChrist.info

A WORD TO OUR GUESTS – Welcome and thank you for coming. Please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. Pastor will send you a welcome card. Please indicate that you “desire” a call for any further contact.

Large Print Bulletins – Available from an usher.

Listening Assistance Devices – Available at the Sound Booth.

Parent Room – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby (“Narthex”)

For Children – Children’s Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

Pre-service and Postlude Music by *Wenzel Schwarz*

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship – “**This Is the Moment**” *sung by Miss Esther Kaufmann*

Invocation and Opening Sentences

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C** **Amen.**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P He brings us light

C **that shines in our darkness.**

P He brings us life

C **that death cannot overcome**

P God is light.

C **In Him there is no darkness at all.**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

1. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Hearts to heaven and voices raise:
Sing to God a hymn of gladness,
Sing to God a hymn of praise;
He who on the cross a victim
For the world's salvation bled -
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,
Now is risen from the dead.

2. Alleluia, Christ is risen!

Death at last has met defeat:
See the ancient powers of evil
In confusion and retreat;
Once he died, and once was buried:
Now He lives for evermore,
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer,
Whom we worship and adore.

3. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Glory be to God on high:
Alleluia to the Savior
Who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit,
Fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, Alleluia
To the Triune Majesty!

Confession and Absolution

- P** In the Epistle, John writes, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." Let us consider our sins so that we do not deceive ourselves with false righteousness.

Silence for reflection

- P** Heavenly Father,

C **we have chosen darkness instead of light. We have chosen death instead of life. Forgive us. Let Your light and life come to us again.**

- P** John also writes, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Having heard your confession, and trusting in God's Word and promises, I announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of the risen Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen. "We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world."**

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

- P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 4:32–35

³²Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. ³³And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold ³⁵and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. ³⁶Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, ³⁷sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

L This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148

¹Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

²Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!

³Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD! For he commanded and they were created.

⁶And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps,

⁸fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word!

⁹Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!

¹¹Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹²Young men and maidens together, old men and children!

¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven.

¹⁴He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints, for the people of Israel who are near to him. Praise the LORD!

Epistle

1 John 1:1—2:2

¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ²the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ³that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

⁴And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

¹My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ²He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

L This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

O Sons and Daughters of the King



1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King, Whom heav'n - ly
2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day, The faith - ful
3 An an - gel clad in white they see, Who sits and
4 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear; A - mong them
5 When Thom - as first the tid - ings heard That they had



hosts in glo - ry sing, To - day the grave has lost its sting!
wom - en went their way To seek the tomb where Je - sus lay.
speaks un - to the three, "Your Lord will go to Gal - i - lee."
came their mas - ter dear And said, "My peace be with you here."
seen the ris - en Lord, He doubt - ed the dis - ci - ples' word.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Verse

Rom. 6:9; John 20:29b

Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

John 20:19–31

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter. **G** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."

²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;

³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

O Sons and Daughters of the King



6 "My pierc - ed side, O Thom - as, see, And look up -
7 No long - er Thom - as then de - nied; He saw the
8 How blest are they who have not seen And yet whose
9 On this most ho - ly day of days Be laud and



on My hands, My feet; Not faith-less but be - liev - ing be."
feet, the hands, the side; "You are my Lord and God!" he cried.
faith has con-stant been, For they e - ter - nal life shall win.
ju - bi - lee and praise: To God your hearts and voic - es raise.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Sermon – "The Life-Changing, Name-Changing Power and Grace of the Resurrection!"

1. The resurrection power and grace of Jesus is life-changing and name-changing!
 - a. What are you known for? What would you like your nickname to be? "Encourager" is a good name! We can and should all be encouragers.
 - b. Alas, some of us have not earned good nicknames.
 - c. An Encourager (*all Christians & especially those who want to be a servant-leaders*) intentionally reaches out and reaches in... builds up... fosters an environment of joy... builds trust... intentionally welcomes and mentors new people... willingly helps new people learn to serve alongside them... is not cliquish... is not territorial... at times steps out of a ministry position to allow someone else to step into ministry... serves without desire for recognition... wants to bring as many people to Heaven with them as possible!
 - d. Being an encourager is a gift through grace, which is for each and every believer. We may not all now be excellent encouragers, but we can allow the Holy Spirit to change us, teach and lead us to encourage!

2. The Life-Changing Power of the resurrection was not for just those who physically saw Jesus during those 40 days after He left the tomb! The actual message of Jesus' resurrection that was and still is proclaimed in the Word preached and taught has that same life-changing power!! It's not just informational – it is transformational!
3. In his giving generously and encouraging support of Paul, this transformed life of Barnabas embodied the name, "son of encouragement".
4. This life-changing, name-changing resurrection power still works! We are transformed like Barnabas when we encourage others in our actions and words... when we are generous to God's Kingdom Work and encourage others!

Apostles Creed

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
 And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.**

Offering – ONLINE GIVING available at www.RisenChrist.info – Whether you are a visitor or a member, please turn in a **Worship Card** so we may know whom the Lord has served with His Word.

"The Power of Your Love" (*Lyrics on screens*)

Prayer of the Church

☩ Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, we live in a world of darkness where many are plagued by shame, abuse, neglect, and hatred. Shine Your light into the dark corners of our hearts that we always walk in fellowship with You. Lord, in Your mercy, **☩ hear our prayer.**

MEN – Lord, we live in a world of death where threats of war, terrorism, disease, and disasters constantly abound. But You are the God of life. In the midst of all this death, bring the hope and comfort of Christ's resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy, **☩ hear our prayer.**

WOMEN – Lord, there are many who do not know the joy of Your light and life and many who refuse to believe the power of Your resurrection unless they can see or experience something profound. Lead them to confess alongside Thomas, "My Lord and my God!" Lord, in Your mercy,

☩ hear our prayer.

MEN – Lord, send healing and care to all who are sick, injured, and recovering. Strengthen them with Your healing hand, and bring them the joy of fellowship we have in the communion of saints. Lord, in Your mercy, **☩ hear our prayer.**

ALL – Lord, many grieve and mourn the death of loved ones. Comfort them with the hope of resurrection life, which is ours in Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**

WOMEN – Lord, every good and perfect gift comes from You. We thank You for the blessings You have poured out upon us. We rejoice with those who rejoice. Grant that our rejoicing draw us back to the Good News of Your light and life. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**

MEN – Lord, at one time Your Church was united so that the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul. Unite Your Church once again so that we enjoy fellowship rather than fractured division. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord, who taught us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

C **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

1. The sun comes up it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

2. You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

CHORUS

**CHORUS: Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name**

3. And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

CHORUS

**ENDING: Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name
Jesus I'll worship Your holy name
I'll worship Your holy name**

Jonas Myrfin/Matt Redman CCLI Song # 6016351 CCLI License # 140952

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P Alleluia! Christ is risen! **C** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **C** **Amen.**

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